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16	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT							
17	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA							
18	DOLUMETER WHARTON; AND, KHASHAYAR RASTAN;	Case No.:	'12CV1035 L	WMC				
19	INDIVIDUALLY AND ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHERS SIMILARLY	CLASS AC	CLASS ACTION					
20	SITUATED,	COMPLAI	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES					
21	Plaintiffs,	JURY TRI	AL DEMANDEI)				
22	v.							
23	GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,							
24	Defendants.							
25	Defendants.							
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Introduction

DOLUMETER WHARTON (individually as "Ms. Wharton" or collectively as "Plaintiffs"); and, KHASHAYAR RASTAN (individually as "Mr. Rastan" or collectively as "Plaintiffs") bring this class action for damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP and its related entities, subsidiaries and agents ("Defendant") willfully employing and/or causing to be employed certain wire-tapping, eavesdropping, recording and listening equipment in order to record, monitor or listen to the telephone conversations of Plaintiffs without the knowledge or consent of Plaintiffs, in violation of California Penal Code §§ 630 et seq., thereby invading Plaintiffs' privacy. Plaintiffs allege as follows upon personal knowledge as to their own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including the investigation conducted by his attorneys.

California Penal Code § 632 prohibits one party to a telephone call from intentionally recording the conversation without the knowledge or consent of the other. Penal Code § 632 is violated the moment the recording is made without the consent of all parties thereto, regardless of whether it is subsequently disclosed. The only intent required by Penal Code § 632 is that the act of recording itself be done intentionally. There is no requisite intent on behalf of the party doing the surreptitious recording to break California or any other law, or to invade the privacy right of any other person. Plaintiffs allege that despite California's two-party consent rule, Defendant continues to violate Penal Code § 632 by impermissibly recording, monitoring, and/or eavesdropping upon its telephone conversations with California residents.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiffs seek relief on behalf of a national class, which will result in at least one class member belonging to a different state than that of Defendants. Plaintiffs also seek the greater of statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation or three times actual damages per violation pursuant to

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Penal Code § 637.2(a), which, when aggregated among a proposed class number in the tens of thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction. Therefore, both diversity jurisdiction and the damages threshold under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA") are present, and this Court has jurisdiction.

4. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 1441(a) because Defendant does business within the State of California and the County of San Diego.

PARTIES

- Plaintiffs are, and at all times mentioned herein were, individual citizens and residents of 5. the State of California.
- 6. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a professional corporation whose primary corporate address in Houston, Texas. Defendant has a policy and practice of recording and/or monitoring telephone conversations with the public, including California residents. Defendant's employees and agents are directed, trained and instructed to, and do, record, monitor, and/or eavesdrop upon telephone conversations with the public, including California residents.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 7. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a limited partnership. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on the basis of that information and belief allege, that at all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendants were the agents and employees of their co-defendants, and in doing the things alleged in this Complaint, were acting within the course and scope of that agency and employment.
- 8. At all times relevant, Plaintiffs were individuals residing within the State of California.
- 9. Since early 2012, Plaintiffs had telephone communications with certain employees, officers and/or agents of Defendant. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that on certain occasions Defendant properly warns consumers that the

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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- conversation will be recorded while on other occasions Defendant does not warn consumers that the conversation is being recorded.
- 10. Specifically, on or about March 7, 2012 Ms. Wharton had telephone communications with certain employees, officers and/or agents of Defendant that were initiated by said employees, officers, and/or agents of Defendant. During said conversation, Defendant immediately requested Ms. Wharton verify confidential information.
- 11. Only after Ms. Wharton verified confidential information did Defendant inform Ms. Wharton that all telephone calls between Defendant and consumers are monitored, recorded, and/or eavesdropped upon.
- 12. Each of these conversations with Ms. Wharton, were without Ms. Wharton's knowledge or consent, recorded, monitored, and/or eavesdropped upon by Defendant, causing harm and damage to Ms. Wharton.
- In addition, on or about March 30, 2012 Mr. Rastan had telephone communications with 13. certain employees, officers and/or agents of Defendant that were initiated by Mr. Rastan. During said conversation, Defendant immediately requested Mr. Rastan verify confidential information.
- 14. Only after Mr. Rastan verified confidential information did Defendant informed Ms. Wharton that all telephone calls between Defendant and consumers are monitored, recorded, and/or eavesdropped upon.
- 15. Each of these conversations with Mr. Rastan, were without Mr. Rastan's knowledge or consent, recorded, monitored, and/or eavesdropped upon by Defendant, causing harm and damage to Mr. Rastan.
- 16. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that during the relevant time period, Defendant has had a policy and a practice of recording and/or monitoring telephone conversations with consumers. Defendant's employees and agents are directed, trained and instructed to, and do, record, monitor, and/or eavesdrop upon telephone conversations with the public, including Plaintiffs and other California residents.

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- 17. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege that from the beginning of 2011 to the present, Defendant has installed and/or caused to be installed certain wire-tapping, eavesdropping, and listening equipment in its employees' or agents' telephone lines. Defendant uses these devices to overhear, record, and listen to each and every telephone conversation on said telephone lines.
- 18. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that during the relevant time period, Defendant has had all of its calls to the public, including those made to California residents, recorded, monitored, and/or eavesdropped upon without the knowledge or consent of the public, including Plaintiffs and other California residents.
- 19. Defendant's conduct alleged herein constitutes violations of the right to privacy to the public, including Plaintiffs and other California residents, and California Penal Code § 630 et seq.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 20. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and on behalf of all others similarly situated ("The Class").
- Plaintiffs represent, and are members of, "The Class" defined as follows: "All persons 21. in California whose inbound and outbound telephone conversations were monitored, recorded, eavesdropped upon and/or wiretapped without their consent by Defendant within the year prior to the filing of the original Complaint in this action."
- 22. Defendant, and its employees and agents are excluded from The Class. Plaintiffs do not know the number of members in The Class, but believe this number to be in the tens of thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.
- This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on 23. behalf of The Class and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto. Plaintiffs reserve the right to expand The Class definition to seek recovery on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and discovery.

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- 24. The joinder of The Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the Court. The Class can be identified through Defendant's records.
- 25. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact to The Class predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the following:
 - Whether Defendant has a policy of recording, wiretapping, eavesdropping upon and/or monitoring incoming and/or outgoing calls;
 - b. Whether Defendant discloses to callers and/or obtains their consent that their incoming and/or outgoing telephone conversations were being recorded, wiretapped, eavesdropped upon and/or monitored;
 - Whether Defendant's policy of recording, wiretapping, eavesdropping upon and/or monitoring incoming and/or outgoing calls constituted a violation of California Penal Code §§ 631(a), 632(a) and/or 637;
 - d. Whether Defendant's policy of recording, wiretapping, eavesdropping upon, and/or monitoring incoming and/or outgoing calls constitutes an invasion of privacy;
 - Whether Plaintiffs and The Class were damaged thereby, and the extent of damages for such violations; and
 - Whether Defendants should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future.
- 26. Plaintiffs are asserting claims that are typical of The Class because every other member of The Class, like Plaintiffs, was exposed to virtually identical conduct and are entitled to the greater of statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation or three times actual damages per violation pursuant to Penal Code § 637.2(a).
- 27. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of The Class in that Plaintiffs have no interest antagonistic to any member of The Class. Plaintiffs have retained counsel experienced in handling class action claims to further ensure such protection.

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28.	Plaintiffs and the members of The Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a result o
	the Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, The Class wil
	continue to face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of lav
	will be allowed to proceed without remedy and Defendant will likely continue such
	illegal conduct. Because of the size of the individual Class member's claims, few, if any
	Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.

- 29. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to comply with federal and California law. The interest of The Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for violation of privacy are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.
- 30. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to The Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to The Class as a whole.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

INVASION OF PRIVACY: VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE § 630 ET SEQ.

- 31. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- Californians have a constitutional right to privacy. Moreover, the California Supreme 32. Court has definitively linked the constitutionally protected right to privacy within the purpose, intent and specific protections of the Privacy Act, including specifically, Penal Code § 632. "In addition, California's explicit constitutional privacy provision (Cal. Const., 1 § 1) was enacted in part specifically to protect California from overly intrusive business practices that were seen to pose a significant and increasing threat to personal privacy. (Citations omitted). Thus, Plaintiffs believe that California must be viewed as having a strong and continuing interest in the full and vigorous application of the

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- provisions of section 632 prohibiting the recording of telephone conversations without the knowledge or consent of all parties to the conversation.
- 33. California Penal Code § 632 prohibits one party to a telephone call from intentionally recording the conversation without the knowledge or consent of the other party. Penal Code § 632 is violated the moment the recording is made without the consent of all parties thereto, regardless of whether it is subsequently disclosed that the telephone call was recorded. The only intent required by Penal Code § 632 is that the act of recording itself be done intentionally. There is no requisite intent on behalf of the party doing the surreptitious recording to break California law or any other law, or to invade the privacy right of any other person.
- 34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereupon allege, that Defendant employed and/or caused to be employed certain wire-tapping, eavesdropping, recording, and listening equipment on the telephone lines of all employees, officers, directors, and managers of Defendant.
- 35. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereupon allege, that all these devises were maintained and utilized to overhear, record, and listen to each and every incoming and outgoing telephone conversation over said telephone lines.
- 36. Said wire-tapping, listening, recording, and eavesdropping equipment was used to record, monitor, or listen to the telephone conversations of Plaintiffs and the members of The Class, all in violation of California Penal Code §§ 631(a) and/or 632.6(a).
- 37. At no time during which these telephone conversations were taking place between Defendant or any employee, agent, manager, officer, or director of Defendant, and any other person, did Defendant inform Plaintiffs or any other member of The Class that the interceptions, eavesdropping, wire-tapping, listening, and recording of their telephone conversations were taking place and at no time did Plaintiffs or any other member of The Class consent to this activity.
- 38. Defendant, knowing that this conduct was unlawful and a violation of Plaintiffs and the members of The Class' right to privacy and a violation of California Penal Code § 630, et

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seq., did intrude on Plaintiffs and the members of The Class' privacy by knowingly and/or negligently and/or intentionally engaging in the aforementioned intercepting, eavesdropping, wire-tapping, listening, and recording activities relative to the telephone conversations between Plaintiffs and The Class members, on the one hand, and Defendant on the other hand, as alleged herein above.

- 39. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs and the members of The Class are entitled to, and below herein do pray for, their statutory remedies and damages, including but not limited to, those set forth in California Penal Code § 637.2.
- 40. Because this case is brought for the purposes of enforcing important rights affecting the public interest, Plaintiffs and The Class seek recovery of their attorney's fees pursuant to the private attorney general doctrine codified in Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, or any other statutory basis.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

INVASION OF PRIVACY: COMMON LAW

- 41. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 42. Defendant invaded Plaintiffs and the members of The Class' right to privacy by intentionally allowing the unauthorized eavesdropping, wiretapping, recording, and listening of the telephone conversation with Plaintiffs and the members of The Class and negligently maintaining the confidentiality of the information of Plaintiffs and the members of The Class, as set for above.
- 43. The intrusion through the unauthorized eavesdropping, wiretapping, recording, and listening of the telephone conversations with Plaintiffs and the members of The Class and the negligently maintaining of the confidentiality of the information of Plaintiffs and The Class, was offensive and objectionable to Plaintiffs, the Class, and to a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities.
- The intrusion was into a place or thing which was private and which is entitled to be 44. private, in that Plaintiffs and The Class' personal conversations and information provided

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- to Defendant were made privately, were intended not to be recorded, and were intended to be kept confidential and protected from unauthorized disclosure.
- 45. As a proximate result of Defendant's above acts, Plaintiffs and The Class' personal conversations and information were intentionally wire-tapped, eavesdropped, recorded, and listened to, and then distributed and used by persons without prior written authorization, and Plaintiffs and The Class suffered general damages in an amount to be determined at trial according to proof.
- 46. Defendant is guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice by permitting and intentionally wiretapping, eavesdropping, recording, and listening to Plaintiffs and The Class' personal conversations and information with a willful and conscious disregard of Plaintiffs and The Class' right to privacy.
- 47. Unless and until enjoined and restrained by order of this Court, Defendant's wrongful conduct will continue to cause Plaintiffs and The Class great and irreparable injury in that the personal information maintained by Defendant can be distributed and used by unauthorized persons. Plaintiffs and members of The Class have no adequate remedy at law for the injuries in that a judgment for monetary sanctions will not end the invasion of privacy for Plaintiffs and The Class.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENCE

- 48. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 49. Defendant, as aforesaid herein, has various statutory and common law duties not to engage in the aforementioned wire-tapping, eavesdropping, recording, and listening conduct such that Plaintiffs and The Class' rights to privacy were invaded and breached.
- 50. Defendant negligently and recklessly engages in the aforementioned eavesdropping, wiretapping, recording, and listening conduct of Plaintiffs and The Class.

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- 51. These activities of Defendant as aforesaid in this cause of action and in this Complaint, legally caused actual, statutorily-imposed and/or demonstrable damages to Plaintiffs and The Class.
- 52. As a result of Defendant's activities as aforesaid in this cause of action and Complaint, Plaintiffs and The Class suffered damage as a result of the conduct of Defendant. Plaintiffs and The Class are entitled to their damages in an amount according to proof at the time of trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request the Court grant Plaintiffs and The Class members the following relief against Defendant:

- That this action be certified as a class action on behalf of The Class and Plaintiffs 1. be appointed as the representative of The Class;
- 2. For the greater of statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation or three times actual damage per violation pursuant to Penal Code § 637.2(a) for Plaintiffs and each member of The Class;
- 3. Injunctive relief in the form of an order requiring Defendant to disgorge all illgotten gains and awarding Plaintiffs and The Class full restitution of all monies wrongfully acquired by Defendant by means of such unfair and unlawful conduct;
- 4. That the Court preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendant from overhearing, recording, and listening to each and every oncoming and outgoing telephone conversation with California resident, including Plaintiffs and The Class, without their prior consent, as required by California Penal Code § 630, et seq., and to maintain the confidentiality of the information of Plaintiffs and The Class;
 - 5. For general damages according to proof;
 - 6. For special damages according to proof;
 - 7. For exemplary or punitive damages;
 - 8. For costs of suit;
 - 9. For prejudgment interest at the legal rate; and

10. For such further relief as this Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiffs are entitled to, and demand, a trial by jury.

Date: April 25, 2012 KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC

By: <u>/s/ Abbas Kazerounian</u>
ABBAS KAZEROUNIAN, ESQ.
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

the civil docket sheet. (SEE I	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)				
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDAN	ITS		
Dolumeter Wharton; an Behalf of all others Simi	d, Khashayar Rastan, Individually and larly Situated	d on GC Service	GC Services Limited Partnership		
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff	County of Reside	ence of First Listed Defendant	Houston, TX	
(E	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES	ONLY)	
			LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, U	JSE THE LOCATION OF THE	
		L	AND INVOLVED.	2CV1035 L WMC	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	e, Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Kno			
Kazerouni Law group, A	APC; 2700 N. Main Street, Ste. 1000,	Santa			
A <u>na, California 92705; (</u>	·	.			
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases C	PTF DEF I		
□ 2 U.S. Government	₩ 4 Divorsity	Citizen of Another State			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	☐ 2 🕱 2 Incorporated and of Business In	Principal Place	
	(indicate Citizensinp of 1 arties in term in)	Citizen or Subject of a	□ 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation		
		Foreign Country			
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENAI	LTY BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR		☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 400 State Reapportionment	
☐ 120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal Injury	- ☐ 620 Other Food & Drug	☐ 423 Withdrawal	☐ 410 Antitrust	
☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	□ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractic Liability □ 365 Personal Injury			□ 430 Banks and Banking□ 450 Commerce	
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability	y ☐ 630 Liquor Laws	PROPERTY RIGHTS	☐ 460 Deportation	
& Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act	Slander	al ☐ 640 R.R. & Truck ☐ 650 Airline Regs.	☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent	470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations	
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability Liability	☐ 660 Occupational	☐ 840 Trademark	☐ 480 Consumer Credit	
Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud	Safety/Health 690 Other		☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 810 Selective Service	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability		SOCIAL SECURITY	□ 850 Securities/Commodities/	
of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	□ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 380 Other Personal □ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage	☐ 710 Fair Labor Standard	Is ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	Exchange 875 Customer Challenge	
■ 190 Other Contract	Product Liability 385 Property Damage		ions	12 USC 3410	
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	X 360 Other Personal Product Liability Injury		ting 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g))	■ 890 Other Statutory Actions ■ 891 Agricultural Acts	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIO		FEDERAL TAX SUITS	□ 892 Economic Stabilization Act	
☐ 210 Land Condemnation	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motions to Vaca		``	893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act	
☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 442 Employment Sentence ☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	or Defendant) ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party	□ 894 Energy Allocation Act□ 895 Freedom of Information	
☐ 240 Torts to Land	Accommodations 530 General		26 USC 7609	Act	
245 Tort Product Liability290 All Other Real Property	☐ 444 Welfare ☐ 535 Death Penalty ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandamus & Ot	iher 462 Naturalization Appl	lication	 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access 	
	Employment 550 Civil Rights	☐ 463 Habeas Corpus -		to Justice	
	☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 555 Prison Condition Other	Alien Detainee ☐ 465 Other Immigration		☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	Actions			
▼1 Original □ 2 R		_1 4 Kemistated of _1 5	Transferred from another district 6 Multidistrict Litization		
Proceeding St	Appellate Court Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you a California Penal Code §§ 630 e	Reopened	(specify)	Judgment	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Brief description of cause:	r seq 28:1332	(srm)		
VII DEOUESTED IN	Invasion of Privacy	N DEMAND \$	CUECV VEC only	y if demanded in complaint:	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	5,000,001.00+	JURY DEMAND	·	
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	(See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE	SIGNATURE OF A	TTORNEY OF RECORD	<u> </u>		
04/26/2012	s/Abbas Kazer	ounian			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					
RECEIPT#A	MOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUD	OGE MAG. JU	JDGE	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity**. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.